Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur and Rajagada.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are being worked out by Government of Orissa.

Amendment to the Succession Act

463. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kerala has amended the provision of Succession Act prescribing that the Will executed by Christians also need not be probated and a discrimination that was in existence against the Christians was removed; and

(b) whether the Central Government also propose to take steps to amend the Indian Succession Act which provides the discriminatory condition that the Will executed by Christians must be probated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government of Kerala has a proposal to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in its application to the State of Kerala for the purpose of excluding the Christians from the requirement of obtaining probate of a will. The said proposal which has been referred to the Central Goverment is receiving its attention.

(b) The question of undertaking any Parliamentary Legislation for amending the Indian Succession Act, 1925 will be considered by the Central Government as and when the necessary initiative from-the Christian Community is received in this regard.

Involvement of Commanding Officer of Infantry in land scandal

464. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the involvement of the Commanding Officer of the Infantry Division located in the sensitive area of the Western border in the land cultivation scandal ignoring the security regulations have come to light recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the land scandal and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MALLI-KARJUN): (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no involvement of the Commanding Officer of the Infantry Division in the alleged land scandal. However, the Commanding Officer of ASC Battalion has been involved in certain irregularities regarding cultivation of Defence land at Amritsar. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the officer.

Tourists abducted by Al-Faran Militant Outfit

465. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken for the release of four Western tourists who were abducted in July, 1995 from Pehelgam near Srinagar by Al-Faran militant outfit;

(b) whether the militants with the foreign tourists have been moving from place to place and authorities failed to trace them;